REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	09 November 1998
Name of applicant/court:	The Secretary for Internal Affairs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	PlayStation Plus, January 1998
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	EMAP Images
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Magazine
Country of Origin:	England
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Not Applicable.	Running time:
Trailers:		Running time:
		Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Display Conditions:

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That when the publication is on public display, the classification given to the publication must be shown on the publication; or any package in which the publication is kept
and
That the publication must be publicly displayed only in a sealed package.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The magazine entitled *PlayStation Plus, January 1998* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

The large format, full colour magazine consists of 132 pages including the covers. Most of the content is concerned with describing, depicting and evaluating computer games played on Sony PlayStation. There is also advertising for PlayStation games and equipment, and some ‘interest’ articles not directly related to the computer games. Images mainly consist of small reproductions of screens of gameplay, however photographic images are also components of the interest articles and advertisements. Most images are captioned and are associated with a few paragraphs of textual description. Text makes liberal use of colloquialisms and innuendo referring to sexual matters, body parts and body functions with an intent to create humour.

The classification is primarily due to the manner in which the magazine treats matters of sex, and the effect of this treatment on the overall tone of the magazine. While discussion and depiction of violent computer games is a major proportion of the magazine, violence resulting in the infliction of serious physical harm to game characters is presented in a low impact manner. Images with a horror impact are a small proportion of the magazine and effectively communicate to readers the character of the game the images relate to. Sexual innuendo and imagery with an appeal to a predominantly adult, heterosexual, male readership is pervasive. Sexual matters are introduced directly, in reader interest articles, and indirectly, in headlines and captioning for computer games that do not have any overtly sexual content. Photographs of naked and semi-naked women and computer generated game characters, or parts thereof, are in themselves intended to be mildly titillatory. Text refers to sexual body parts and functions and sexual activity in readily recognised words and phrases, including coarse sexual vernacular that may on occasion cause offence to some readers. Sexual matters are treated humorously, however they also have an underlying message that PlayStation games are ‘sexy’ and reinforce masculine sexuality.

Referring to New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 issues, the Classification Office considers that the classification of the magazine is consistent with the primary aim of limiting likely injury to the public good, without being unduly restrictive. The sexual

tone and overtly titillatory appeal of the magazine, and the manner in which this is connected with computer gaming, renders it unsuitable for children and young teenagers. However, while pervasive, the sexual nature of the magazine is not sufficiently intense or explicit to warrant limiting it to an adult readership.

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